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AMERICA LOST A VISIONARY LEADER IN HENRY B.

(By Yolanda Chavez Leyva)

Henry B. Gonzalez, 84 died on Nov. 28 in a San Antonio hospital.

Henry B., as he was affectionately known, was a fierce fighter for the poor. Throughout almost half a century of public service, he dedicated himself to civil rights and social justice.

Gonzalez, who served 37 years in the House of Representatives before retiring in 1998, was the first Mexican American from Texas elected to that position. Although he stated that his politics were not shaped by his ethnicity, his championing of issues such as voting rights and economic opportunity made him a hero to many Mexican Americans.

His career helped open the door to other Mexican-American politicians. According to political scientist Rodolfo Rosales, Gonzalez' election was "a cornerstone" in the creation of a middle-class Mexican-American leadership.

Gonzalez was known for his controversial stands. He was willing to take on Republicans and members of his own Democratic Party to defend his principles. He advocated the impeachment of Presidents Reagan and Bush for the 1983 invasion of Grenada and the Iran-Contra scandal, respectively. He also investigated their friendly dealings with Iraq and Saddam Hussien prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

During his tenure on the powerful House Banking Committee, he led the investigation into the savings and loan scandals of the 1980s, which implicated five Democratic senators. In 1993, he was one of two Mexican-American representatives who voted against NAFTA. The other one was Rep. Matthew Martinez, D-Calif.

Over the years, Henry B. survived many challenges to his political leadership. His political astuteness was unquestioned, his charisma obvious.

As significant as his individual achievements were, however, it is important to understand the community from which Henry B. emerged. Gonzalez was as much a product of the Mexican-American community's dream of justice as a champion of its cause.

Henry B. was born in 1916 to immigrant Mexican parents. He graduated from St. Mary's Law School in 1943. After working as a probation officer and deputy director of the Bexar County Housing Authority, he was elected to the San Antonio City Council in 1953 as a result of a grassroots campaign.

Henry B. came of age in a Texas that regarded Mexican Americans as second-class citizens. Texas Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies kept Mexican Americans "in line" through intimidation and violence. The Southern legacy of segregation was still thriving, although both African Americans and Mexican Americans continually challenged the status quo. The poll tax worked to keep the poor from participating in the political process. Education was but a dream to many. In 1950, only one in 10 Mexican Americans graduated from high school in Texas. Less than one in 100 finished college, according to historian Rodolfo Acuna. Poverty and racism had closed the school door to the majority of Mexican-American children.

In San Antonio, where Henry B. grew up, the streets of the barrios remained unpaved. Health care for the poor was negligible. Tuberculosis and other diseases were rampant.

Despite the poverty and second-class citizenship, a dream of justice lived. In the 1930s,

thousands of Mexican-American workers took to the San Antonio streets demanding better working conditions.

In the 1940s and '50s, Mexican Americans used the Texas courts to demand equality. In the 1948 Delgado vs. Bastrop Independent School District case, the court ruled that the segregation of Mexican-American children in schools violated the 14th Amendment. In the 1954 case of Hernandez vs. The State of Texas, the court ruled that qualified Mexican Americans could not be excluded from juries.

Gonzalez built on these victories. Following election of the state Senate in 1956, he opposed efforts by other Texas legislators to maintain segregated schools. When legislators introduced bills to withhold funds from integrated schools following the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Gonzalez responded with a now-famous filibuster.

Henry B. was often called "a man of the people," and his defense of the common folk is well-known. He was, however, also a man who emerged from the people with a dream: a dream of social justice and equality.

A SALUTE TO MARY KING HONORING HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor today to salute Mary King for her years of service to the citizens of Alameda County and in honor of her retirement as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Mary King served three terms on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and was the first African-American woman to serve on this governing body. Prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, King was an Independent Consultant to the Board managing the ground operation for the County's sales tax initiative campaign—Measure B. Previously, she served as an Assistant to Oakland's City Manager, Henry Gardner, Chief of Staff to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, and was an aide and later Chief of Staff to California State Legislator Bill Lockyer, California's current Attorney General.

During her tenure as a county Supervisor, Mary King served on a diverse and impressive array of boards and commissions. These bodies include California Attorney General's Commission on Hate Crimes, Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Alameda County Transportation Authority, Public Protection Committee, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Joint Powers Authority of the Network Associates Coliseum (formerly the Alameda County-Oakland Coliseum), the MTC's Bay Bridge Task Force, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, Democratic National Platform Committee, and the Center for Ethics and Social Policy of the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley.

In addition, during her tenure as Supervisor, Mary King worked to save health care serv-

ices for residents by creating a hospital authority model, implemented the Model Neighborhood Program, and developed a major land use approach to the County General Plan. I proudly join her many friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting Mary King for her years of service to the community and her commitment to bettering the lives of the citizens she served. Thank you Mary.

SOFT MONEY BAN

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would prohibit the use of soft money to influence any campaign for election to federal office.

Since 1907, it has been illegal for corporations to donate money for campaigns for federal office. Since 1947, labor unions have not been allowed to donate money directly for campaigns. Finally, since 1974, individuals have not been allowed to contribute more than \$1,000 to a federal candidate.

Soft money emerged as a vehicle to get around these campaign finance laws. Political parties now receive unlimited contributions by corporations, labor unions, and wealthy individuals. Huge amounts of soft money have invaded our political system. My bill places the same limits on the contributions to the National Parties as is currently in effect for contributions made to all candidates for federal office. We should ban soft money this year and restore the people's faith in our political process.

RECOGNIZING LOIS B. KRIEGER FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE—WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor today to recognize the outstanding career of Lois Krieger, who retired after 25 years as Western Municipal Water District's representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors on January 1. Throughout the towns and cities across our nation, there are individuals who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talents and energies to make life better for their friends and neighbors. The citizens of Riverside, CA, are fortunate to have had such an individual in Lois.

Lois began her career in 1976, when she was appointed to succeed her father, Howard Boylan. At that time Lois Krieger already possessed a deep understanding and dedication to the region's complex water affairs from her years traveling with her father to public utility hearings and water affairs meetings. It was precisely Lois' commitment to these issues

that spurred her election as the first woman, in the district's 60-year history, to chair the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board, serving from 1989 to 1993.

MWD imports water from the Colorado River and northern California, to supplement the local supplies within southern California, and provides it safely and reliably to the public. Western Municipal Water District is one of the 27 member agencies to make up MWD and provides water, waste water disposal and water resources management to the communities within a 510 square mile area of western Riverside County.

In addition to her work on the MWD's Board of Directors, Lois also served as the first woman president of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), a California statewide association of 435 public water agencies responsible for the delivery of most of the water in the state. In that capacity, Krieger considers Water for All Californians, the governing policy of ACWA, as her chief accomplishment while President. Additionally, Lois has served as: a member on boards of directors of the Water Education Foundation, the California Water Resources Association, the Colorado River Resources Coalition; a western delegate to the municipal caucus of the National Water Resources Association; and a member of the University of California at Riverside Chancellor's agricultural advisory council and Women's Hall of Fame.

Lois Krieger's leadership has led to numerous awards and recognitions. The highlights include: the Los Angeles YWCA's Silver Achievement Award for public service in 1990; the Riverside YMCA's Women in Achievement Award for public and community service in 1990; and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Citizen Award for her commitment to the needs of the water community in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Lois' work to preserve and strengthen southern California's water resources has been critical to the future viability of our communities, region and state. I know that all of the Inland Empire is grateful for her contributions to the betterment of the community and salute Lois as she retires from the Municipal Water District's Board of Directors. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of the Inland Empire and southern California in the future.

HONORING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

America is a country of many faces and we take pride in our nation's diversity. America is known as the "great melting pot" because it has welcomed many people from all over the world to share in living the American dream. Unfortunately, reality is often different than the dream for many Americans.

The reality has often been ugly. Segregation was a blight on our nation that deprived millions of people equality in this country and

was often used as a tool to oppress people and keep them from living up to their full potential. The system kept many people in the shackles of poverty. America needed a bold leader who, despite hardships and violent attacks, would continue to fight for justice.

In 1955 frustration at the system of segregation boiled over in Montgomery, Alabama when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. She was consequently arrested. Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by African-Americans that lasted more than a year. The boycott elevated an unknown clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr., to national prominence and resulted in the end to segregation on city buses. Dr. King continued to promote peaceful protest and inspired a generation of Americans to work to end segregation and to fight for equality. His dedication to the cause of ending a broken system and bringing America's reality closer to the dream won him the Nobel Peace Prize and empowered many Americans.

But his work is not done. Barriers to racial equality must still be torn down and many hearts still need to be healed. We cannot let Martin Luther King's work go unfinished; we have not reached the mountaintop yet. Even today, ethnic minorities, women, gays and lesbians, the disabled and others are often treated as if they are second class citizens. This must not stand. There is no reason why our nation, which prides itself in being the home of the free, should continue to treat people unequally. It is time to make the dream fully real. We must challenge ourselves to reach across divides and embrace and celebrate our nation's diversity. We as a country and as a people will be stronger because of it.

CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE
PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN FROM
UGANDA AND THE UNITED
STATES AS THEY GATHER TO-
GETHER TO CELEBRATE "CALL-
ING THE CIRCLE FOR THE NEW
MILLENNIUM"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of extraordinary women leaders from Uganda, who, as part of a globally-focused program entitled CALLING THE CIRCLE, are currently on a 12-day visit to the great state of California.

These women leaders, who come from various regions of Uganda, represent two of the largest Ugandan NGOs that are focused on women's issues and leadership building: Action for Women in Development (or ACFODE) and the Forum for Women in Democracy (or FOWODE). In collaboration with ACFODE and FOWODE and other community organizations in Uganda, the Women's Intercultural Network, a Northern California-based NGO, is CALLING THE CIRCLE between women of Uganda and the U.S. to strengthen democratic values throughout civil society. The goal of this collaboration is to develop mechanisms and mod-

els for joint advocacy, leadership development, and democracy building across cultural and digital divides. Their vision is to build a "virtual grassroots network" between Ugandan and U.S. women for on-going discussion, information exchange, and worldwide collaboration.

There are already some important highlights from this trip, not the least of which was a welcome tea that was hosted by the Japanese Consul-General at his official residence. At this truly multi-cultural and international gathering, the women from Uganda were able to meet and talk with Japanese and Japanese-American women who represented a wide range of organizations, professions, and experiences. Consul-General Tanaka, gave a gracious welcome to the women and expressed his country's commitment and interest in the continent of Africa. Along with Mr. Tanaka's welcome, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., of San Francisco, proclaimed Sunday, January 21 as "Uganda Women's Day" in the city and county of San Francisco.

Furthermore, while here in the United States, the Uganda women will join their American sisters at issue forums, roundtable meetings and social gatherings to discuss and deliberate on issues that impact women across the globe. Some of these topics included health, mentoring women for leadership, democracy building, as well as economic and environmental justice.

In closing Mr. Speaker, let me say how proud I am that one of the Bay Area's own NGOs, the Women's Intercultural Network, has been the force behind this global effort to link grassroots women leaders and organizations across digital and cultural divides. We often think of the Bay Area and Silicon Valley as the world's leader in producing technology, but now we must also recognize that the Bay Area is playing an important role in producing the next generation of women leaders throughout the world.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN RADIO PROGRAM OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize an important milestone honoring a valuable service to the Polish American community in Philadelphia, PA and its surrounding region. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Polish American Radio Program of the Philadelphia area. This radio broadcast has served as an invaluable communication tool for the Polish American community. It serves as an important medium in which to share common views and ethnic pride.

The first broadcast took place in April 1925 on Broad Street in Philadelphia on 860 AM Radio. Since that time there have been many daily and weekly hosts of the program who offered various types of entertainment to Polonia. Many in Philadelphia remember the long time daily radio program host Theodore